

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12

OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 /082 W

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FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS PINS

SUBJ: REPORTED MILITARY ACTION IN KOLWEZI

REF: LUBUMBASHI 0455

1. ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER PARTICIPATED IN "COUNCIL OF WAR" HELD AT REGIONAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE 10:30 LOCAL TIME. PRESENT WERE ACTING REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ALEMO, 8TH MILITARY DISTRICT CHIEF COL SASA, GECAMINES DIRECTOR PICQUET, METHODIST MISSIONARY ENRIGHT, CND OFFICIALS, AND EUROPEAN PILOT WHO TRANSPORTED REGIONAL COMMISSIONER EFAMBE TO SANDOA YESTERDAY.

2. MILITARY SITUATION FOLLOWS: ATTACK BEGAN AT 0600 LOCAL TIME WHEN INVADERS STRUCK AT AIRPORT IN EASTERN AREA OF KOLWEZI. OTHER INVADING COLUMN STRUCK FROM SOUTHWEST. AT 0800 METHODIST MISSIONARIES IN KOLWEZI DESCRIBED THE SITUATION AS "VERY HOT" AND SAID THAT THEY WERE TAKING SHELTER IN INTERIOR HALLWAYS. AT 0900 ANOTHER RADIO CHECK CONFIRMED THAT HEAVY WEAPONS WERE BEING USED, AND APPARENT BOMBING AND STRAFING RUNS BEING MADE BY UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT. MISSIONARIES REPORTED THAT CIS BASE CAMP IN KOLWEZI HAD PASSED FIRST WORD OF THE ATTACK TO THEM  
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THAT MORNING. FIGHTING HAS SHIFTED FROM AIRPORT AREA ON EASTERN AREA OF TOWN TO INDUSTRIAL AREA NEAR CENTRAL COMMERCIAL ZONE.

3. EUROPEAN PILOT REPORTED THAT HE OVERFLEW KOLWEZI AIRPORT AT APPROX 0930 LOCAL TIME. CONTROL TOWER AND HANGARS IN FLAMES. FIVE OR SIX FAZ MACHI FIGHTER PLANES APPARENTLY DESTROYED. HE WAS CONTACTED BY PILOT OF CESSNA 310 AIRCRAFT WHICH DID NOT

IDENTIFY ITSELF AND ORDERED HIM TO RETURN TO HIS POINT OF ORIGIN. PILOT RESPONDED THAT HE IN NEED OF REPAIRS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO LUBUMBASHI. ON SECOND PASS OVER AIRPORT HIS AIRCRAFT RECEIVED GROUND FIRE AND WAS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED. HE CLAIMS THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO LUBUMBASHI.

4. PICQUET REPORTED THAT GECAMINES TELEPHONE SYSTEM STILL INTACT AND HIS OFFICE HERE IN CONSTANT CONTACT. REPORTED THAT SEVEN EUROPEANS SO FAR TAKEN PRISONER BY INVADERS BUT UNABLE TO PROVIDE IDENTIFICATION. FAZ ELEMENTS HAVE BEGUN CONFISCATING AUTOMOBILES. GECAMINES FACTORIES AND MINES IN KOLWEZI HAVE ALL SHUT DOWN. FIGHTING WAS CONTINUING AS OF 1030 LOCAL TIME.

5. COL SASA REPORTED THAT FAZ HAD LOST ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH SPECIAL MILITARY REGION HEADQUARTERS. HE SPECULATED THAT ATTACK WAS EITHER JUST A RAID DESIGNED TO CAUSE DESTRUCTION AND PANIC OR A SERIOUS ATTACK DESIGNED TO CAPTURE THE CITY AND SEIZE EQUIPMENT FOR FURTHER OPERATIONS. HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE DETAILS ON IDENTITY OF INVADERS, OR MILITARY OPERATIONS. MEETING ENDED AT 1100.

6. CHIEF CONSULATE LOCAL EMPLOYEE, WHOSE WIFE IS GECAMINES EMPLOYEE, REPORTS THAT RUMOR AT GECAMINES IS THAT FIGHTING HAS AS ORIGIN A MUTINY BY FAZ ELEMENTS IN KOLWEZI AREA. GECAMINES HAS ORDERED A "STAND-FAST" AND ADVISED ITS EMPLOYEES NOT TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES.  
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7. FOCUS OF LOCAL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS IS WHEREABOUTS OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONER EFAMBE WHO WAS LEFT AT SANDOA WHEN PILOT WENT TO KOLWEZI FOR AIRCRAFT REPAIRS. NO EMERGENCY MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN AT PRESENT IN LUBUMBASHI AREA.

8. REPORT FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL ON IDENTITIES OF ALL AMERICANS IN KOLWEZI AREA. CONSULATE HAS ESTABLISHED RELAY CONTACT WITH CIS KOLWEZI THROUGH CIS KINSHASA.

9. FOR KINSHASA: PLEASE ADVISE ETA OF PRINCIPAL OFFICER BORG AND CEO ROHAL. INSTALLATION OF BACK-UP ERTS TRANSMITTER URGENT PRIORITY FOR ADEQUATE COMMUNICATIONS WITH CIS AND METHODIST MISSIONARIES.  
NALL

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## Message Attributes

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